

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 30, 2001

LB 451

the question about whether we...these individuals have all been trained in the use of this instrument is a very critical question, because then we need to look at the staffing for probation as a whole, and whether it's adequate to be able to take-on this...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...responsibility. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Landis, on the motion to override LB 451.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. In fact, Senator Thompson, I'm going to have a question or two for you, but I'll tell you what they are, and I'll give you my time and you can respond. Because I'm going to tell you what I heard out in the hall, and you get a chance to respond to what I hear. When I listened to the bill, and listened to the override, I pick up two social values. One, there are inappropriate detentions that this should help us do better on because we have a relatively arbitrary system as it is now. And the second virtue is, if it is well done, the dissension decision has some savings as a possibility, and also probably better use of the detention option in more appropriate circumstances. So I think those are the virtues of LB 451 and maybe there are more, and I'll give you some more time to talk about that. Here's what I hear out there, so you can have a chance. Number one: isn't it better to train all 350 to use this, that would solve the availability problem that might be inherent because there may be the difficulty of matching 13 workers with the need. Those 13 workers may have to drive a lot, they may have overtime. If we trained all 350 wouldn't that be better and then we'd save ourselves those seven slots. That's the one argument. Second argument I heard was, some county court judges that now do juvenile work, Tom Dorwart called my office, I believe Judge Finn, Judge Wallace have indicated a concern that LB 451 cuts them out of making this detention decision, and they'd like to do it, they think it's appropriate and a cost savings, and it's part of their job and they shouldn't be cut out. Those I think are the two arguments